We claim:

11. A multiblade lawn mower, comprising:

a mower deck comprising a top wall, a front wall, a back wall, and first and second side walls defining a downwardly directed opening;

each of said front wall, said back wall, and said opposite side walls having interior and exterior surfaces;

said first side wall having a discharge opening formed therein;

said discharge opening having rearward and forward ends;

means operatively connected to said mower deck for moving said mower deck along the ground;

first and second cutting blades rotatably disposed within said mower deck;

power means operatively connected to said cutting blades for causing the rotation of each of said cutting blades;

a first flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from the interior surface of said top wall between said cutting blades and said front wall;

said first flow control baffle extending substantially continuously from a first location adjacent the interior surface of said second side wall to a second location adjacent the interior surface of said first side wall and adjacent the forward end of said discharge opening;

said first flow control baffle comprising a first arcuate baffle portion, having first and second ends, which extends from the interior surface of said second side wall partially around said first cutting blade, a first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of

said first arcuate baffle portion, a second arcuate baffle portion, having first and second ends, which extends from said second end of said first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion partially around said second cutting blade;

said first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion being angularly disposed with respect to the blade tip path of said second cutting blade so that the cuttings from said first cutting blade will be deflected inwardly within the blade tip path of said second cutting blade;

a second flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from the interior surface of said top wall rearwardly of said cutting blades; and

said second flow control baffle including a plurality of semi-circular baffle portions, each of said baffle portions being positioned adjacent the blade tip path of one of said cutting blades;

said first and second flow control baffles defining a plurality of open throat portions which are positioned between adjacent cutting blades.

The lawn mower of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second flow control baffles have spaced-apart arcuate portions which cooperate to define a semi-enclosed cutting chamber extending partially around the blade tip path of each of said cutting blades.

The lawn mower of claim 2 further comprising a plurality of selectively removable mulcher baffles which close said throat portions to define a substantially cylindrical mulching chamber around each of said cutting blades.

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The lawn mower of claim 12 further comprising a plurality of selectively removable mulcher baffles which close said throat portions and said discharge opening to define a substantially cylindrical mulching chamber around each of said cutting blades.

15.

The lawn mower of claim 12 further comprising a plurality of selectively removable mulcher baffles which cooperate with said flow control baffles to close said throat portions and said discharge opening to define a substantially cylindrical mulching chamber around each of said cutting blades.

16.

A multiblade lawn mower, comprising:

a mower deck comprising a top wall, a front wall, a back wall, and first and second side walls defining a downwardly directed opening;

each of said front wall, said back wall, and said opposite side walls having interior and exterior surfaces;

said first side wall having a discharge opening formed therein;

said discharge opening having rearward and forward ends;

means operatively connected to said mower deck for moving said mower deck along the ground;

first, second and third cutting blades rotatably disposed within said mower deck;

power means operatively connected to said cutting blades for causing the rotation of each of said cutting blades;

a first flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from the interior surface of said top wall between said cutting blades and said front wall;

said first flow control baffle extending substantially continuously from a first location adjacent the interior surface of said second side wall to a second location adjacent the interior surface of said first side wall and adjacent the forward end of said discharge opening;

said first flow control baffle comprising a first arcuate baffle portion, having first and second ends, which extends from the interior surface of said second side wall partially around said first cutting blade, a first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of said first arcuate baffle portion, a second arcuate baffle portion, having first and second ends, which extends from said second end of said first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion partially around said second cutting blade, a second elongated and substantially straight baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of said second arcuate baffle portion, and a third baffle portion extending from said second end of said second elongated and substantially straight baffle portion adjacent said third cutting blade towards said discharge opening;

said first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion being angularly disposed with respect to the blade tip path of said second cutting blade so that the cuttings from said first cutting blade will be deflected inwardly within the blade tip path of said second cutting blade, said second elongated and substantially straight baffle portion being disposed with respect to the blade tip path of said third

cutting blade so that the cuttings from said second cutting blade will be deflected inwardly within the blade tip path of said third cutting blade;

a second flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from the interior surface of said top wall rearwardly of said cutting blades; and

said second flow control baffle including a plurality of semi-circular baffle portions, each of said baffle portions being positioned adjacent the blade tip path of one of said cutting blades;

said first and second flow control baffles defining a plurality of open throat portions ~~which are positioned between adjacent cutting blades.~~

The lawn mower of claim ~~16~~ 6 wherein each of said first and second flow control baffles have spaced-apart arcuate portions which cooperate to define a semi-enclosed cutting chamber extending partially around the blade tip path of each of said cutting blades.

The lawn mower of claim ~~17~~ 7 further comprising a plurality of selectively removable mulcher baffles which close said throat portions to define a substantially cylindrical mulching chamber around each of said cutting blades.

The lawn mower of claim ~~17~~ 7 further comprising a plurality of selectively removable mulcher baffles which close said throat portions and said discharge opening to define a substantially cylindrical mulching chamber around each of said cutting blades.

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The lawn mower of claim ~~17~~ 7 further comprising a plurality of selectively removable mulcher baffles which cooperate with said flow control baffles to close said throat portions and said discharge opening to define a substantially cylindrical mulching chamber around each of said cutting blades.